

## THE UW FORUM FOR NATIONAL SERVICE EXECUTIVES

Last month 17 national service executives gathered at the University of Washington for a class on Budgeting and Financial Management. The course was designed specifically for those in national service to help them significantly expand their budget building and budget monitoring skills, including improved use of computer-based tools.

The students explored topics such as the appropriate allocation of resources, including preventing over-reliance on individual funding sources, which often inhibits the development of sustainable programs. They also expanded their knowledge of project cost accounting as a means of understanding true costs, preventing cost overruns, and guaranteeing long-term financial health. Students reviewed the role of the effective manager in all elements of budgeting and financial management, including management in times of significant budget cuts and learned to apply early warning signs of fiscal distress, and the specific steps organizations can take to make certain such distress does not emerge. Finally, working in teams, they examined a “client” organization, using their fiscal management tools to measure program progress and propose program improvements.

On the last day, the teams presented their observations and recommendations to the class. Also, a small ceremony was held to recognize the students who have completed the three-course series and received their certificate in “National Service and Non-profit Management” from the Evans School.

